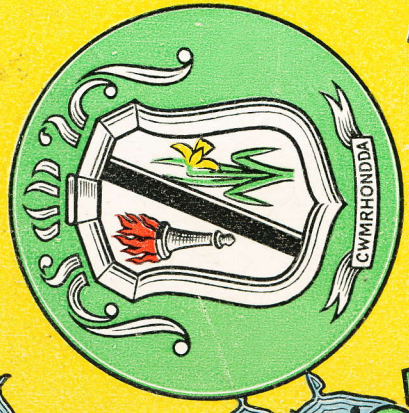


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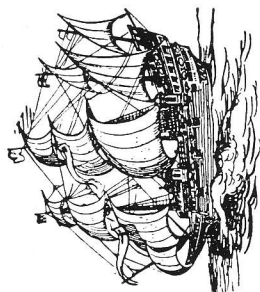


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GLAMORGAN

The Official Guide

THIRD EDITION

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*Illustrations from photographs
by the Norman Studios, Penre*

THE RHONDDA

THE Rhondda area is irregularly oval in shape, but with ends rounded; overall it is 12 miles long and 4½ miles across at its widest part.

The two valleys which comprise the Rhondda are known as the Rhondda Fawr (Large Rhondda) and Rhondda Fach (Small Rhondda). They are separated by a ridge called Cefn-y-Rhondda (the back of the Rhondda), which consists of Penrhys and Moel Cadwgan (the former named after Rees-ap-Tudor and the latter after Cadwgan-y-Fwyell—Cadwgan of the Axe), and extends from Porth right back to the Rhigos plateau, where the mountains meet in grandeur and solitude. This ridge rises from an elevation of 1,100 feet just above Porth to 1,969 feet at the upper extremity of the district; this is the highest point in Glamorgan.

The valleys run practically north-west to south-east and, with a single valley continued after their junction, form an irregularly shaped Y. The stem of the Y, extending from Porth to the boundary of the district at Trehafod, is about a mile-and-a-half long, whilst the limbs are of unequal length, the Rhondda Fawr valley being about 9½ miles long and the Rhondda Fach valley about 6½ miles long.

The valleys are traversed by rivers known as the Rhondda Fawr River and the Rhondda Fach River in the long and short valleys respectively. The rivers are joined in the stem of the Y at Cymmer, and from thence to its junction with the River Taff at Pontypridd is known as the Rhondda River. The bed of the Rhondda River at Trehafod is approximately 240 feet above sea level, whilst the Rhondda Fawr River is at an elevation of 720 feet at Blaenrhondda, and the Rhondda Fach River is 920 feet at Maerdy.

The sub-soil consists of Pennant Stone overlying the coal-bearing strata, whilst in the few expanded portions of the valleys the soil is alluvial.

On the whole the climate of the district is bracing and the atmosphere is clear except in the immediate neighbourhood of the collieries, where a certain amount of coal dust is present during the working hours. The rainfall varies considerably in various parts of the district.

HISTORY OF THE RHONDDA

The origin of the name "Rhondda" is somewhat obscure, and many theories on this point have been advanced. One authority,

RHONDDA—

"The region was wild and mountainous where nature seemed to reign in unbroken silence amidst her own eternal rocks."

Canon Lewis, claims that it derives from the Continental musical word "Rhondo", meaning "sprightly and leaping", thus associating the district with its beautiful rivers. Another is traced to the Courts Leet records of Llantrisant relating to the Manor of "Glynrhotheney"; but scattered and unrelated records of the valleys have, however, existed since 1678.

The face of the Rhondda has changed almost completely since the dawning of the era of the coal mining industry a century-and-a-half ago. Up to that time the mountains hemming the valleys on all sides, and also the ridge separating the valleys, were thickly clothed to their summits with an endless depth of wood. For the most part the trees were oak, many of which were of great dimensions; according to tradition a squirrel could pass from oak to oak along the entire length of the valleys to Pontypridd without descending to the ground. The area was purely pastoral in character, with but a few farmsteads dotting the hillsides here and there. The means of communication were primitive and rough, and bridle paths were the chief access from one farm to another. The population at this period (1801) was 542. Only four bridges (wooden structures) crossed the rivers—one at Pontrhondda, one at Tylorstown, and the other two at the confluence of the two rivers at Cymmer. The rivers were crystal clear and fresh water fish of many kinds, including salmon, abounded in them.

A number of historians have visited the Rhondda and have recorded their impressions. The earliest was John Leland who, commissioned by Henry VIII to inquire into the archaeological aspects of the country, visited the Rhondda in 1540 and referred to it as "The Vale of Glyn Rodeney". Next to record his visit to the valleys was Rhys Meyrick, in 1578, who said "In this valley may be seen some of the finest touches of untouched nature". Dr. Malkin in 1803 described the Rhondda as the most beautiful of all the mountain districts in Wales, and called the topmost peaks "The Alps of Glamorgan". Here are the recorded impressions of his visit—"The Rhondda exhibits such scenes of untouched nature as the imagination would find it difficult to surpass. The Rhondda makes fertile the valley with its clear pure stream, rolling over loose stones. Those who have seen the wilds of Rhondda have seen such woods and groves as are rarely to be found. For miles there is a luxuriance far beyond what my entrance into this district led me to expect. The meadows rich and verdant, with the mountains the most wild and romantic surrounding them on every side, are in the highest degree picturesque. The sides of the hills are clothed with a seemingly endless supply of woods".

In 1845 Cliffe wrote, "We shall never forget our first impression of the Rhondda. When we walked about half-a-mile over the hill, the clouds that had been lying down on the hill began

to lift and suddenly the Green Valley unfolded itself before us with one of those exquisite effects peculiar to mountain scenery which a painter could not transfer to canvas. The Valley stretched for a distance of 8 to 10 miles between two parallel lines of hills. These were broken by a succession of cliffs of singular beauty and were seemingly headed by a vast Alpine headland, and feathered by trees and copse wood to its summit, a mountain chief (Pen Pych) keeping watch as we descended. The emerald greenness of the meadow in the valley below was most refreshing. The air is full of the scent of wild flowers and mountain plants; a Sabbath stillness reigns. It is the gem of Glamorganshire".

Finally, Mr. Foster in 1848 said "The region was wild and mountainous where nature seemed to reign in stern and unbroken silence, amidst her own eternal rocks. Not a human being beside myself appeared to be breaking these solitudes, nor was a habitation to be seen".

Today, the face of the Rhondda is disfigured by the savage scars of industrialism, but there still exist traces of her former beauty, notably at Pontrhondda, and Cymmer, where belts of woodlands are jealously safeguarded as "oases" in the desert of urban growth.

In 1909 excavations were conducted to convert a natural lake into a reservoir (Llyn Fawr Reservoir), and certain relics were then unearthed; these were a Hallstatt long sword and a cauldron, which now repose in the National Museum of Wales. A replica of the cauldron may be seen at the Council Offices. The long sword is believed to be the only one of its type in the British Isles, and originates from the Cap D'or district of Burgundy. The cauldron belongs to the Irish Group and probably originated from Ireland, and according to ancient tales of Wales is generally associated with deep waters which leads one to the assumption that it was thrown into the lake as a votive offering by some marauding band on the uplands of Wales after a visit of pillage and plunder to the richer areas surrounding the Bristol Channel port of Cardiff. The date of the hoard is put at around 500 to 400 B.C.

Excavations which have been conducted in other parts of the district have revealed the existence of an old town at Maendy, Ton Pentre, and another at Gelli; the former is considered to be of the Middle Ages or Medieval period. Amongst the finds at Hen Dre'r Gelli (The Old Town of Gelli) was a beaker which possessed characteristics of the earliest phase of the Bronze Age. The discovery of these prehistoric towns has revealed that the Rhondda was inhabited during the period of the Neolithic or New Stone Age, and through to the Bronze and Iron Ages, that is, as long ago as 2,000 B.C.

A land of mountains . . .

ADMINISTRATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Urban District of Rhondda has an area (including mountain land) of 23,885 acres and a population of 111,357 (1951 Census). It is the second largest urban district in population in England and Wales, giving precedence only to the Urban District of Harrow. Geographical configuration is such that development has had to be confined in many respects; except for a few open patches the two valleys are almost continuously built-up along the lower levels, or occupied by collieries and factories, railways and the river beds.

The district formerly comprised very largely the Civil Parish of Ystradfordwg (which extended to and included Rhigos, but which is not now in the Rhondda Urban Area), and also parts of the Parishes of Llanwonno and Llantrisant. The area of the parish was 24,515 acres. Until 1863 the valleys were included in the area of administration of the Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority, but in January of that year the Pontypridd Rural Sanitary Authority was formed and the valleys became a portion of that district. The next decade saw the industrialisation of the Rhondda and a tremendous influx of population. Consequently in 1877 local government administration was transferred to the Ystradfordwg Urban Sanitary Authority, whose first meeting was held on the 29th November, 1877, and whose members were twelve in number. In 1879 parts of the Parishes of Llanwonno and Llantrisant were added to the Rhondda urban area. The Ystradfordwg Urban Sanitary Authority subsequently became the Ystradfordwg Urban District Council, and comprised 5 wards and 15 members. The first meeting was held on the 4th January, 1895. On the 3rd July, 1897, the name of the district and district council were changed to that of the Rhondda Urban District and Rhondda Urban District Council respectively, and in March of the following year the district was redivided into ten wards with a representation of 30 members, which was increased to 33 in January, 1913. In March, 1921, the number of wards was further increased to eleven and the number of members to 35.

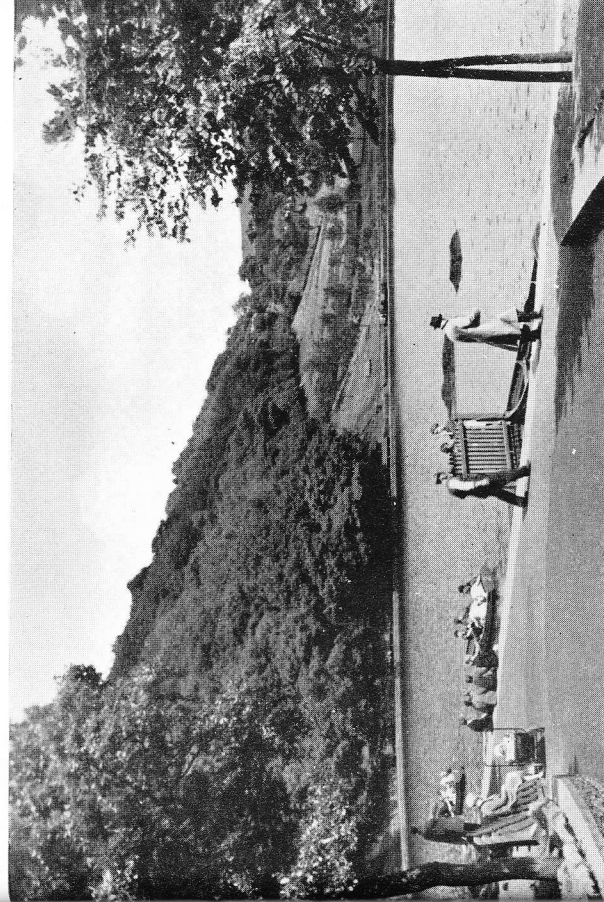
The Rhondda Urban District is divided into two Parliamentary Divisions: RHONDDA EAST, comprising Rhondda Fach, and the Polling Districts of Penygraig, Dinas and Trealaw in the Rhondda Fawr, with an electorate of 40,279, which is represented by Mr. W. H. Mainwaring M.P. RHONDDA WEST, comprising the whole of Rhondda Fawr, excluding the Polling Districts of Penygraig, Dinas and Trealaw, with an electorate of 37,328, which is represented by Mr. I. R. Thomas, M.P.

The Rhondda Urban District is in the administrative county of Glamorgan, and is divided into 12 divisions, with one County Councillor for each division.



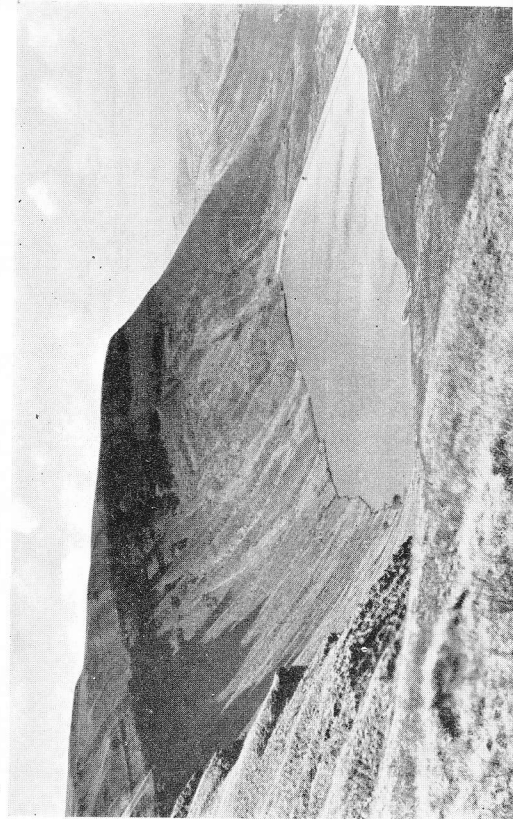
The mountain road (Bwlch) linking The Rhondda with Swansea, Port Talbot, Porthcawl and the West, 1,700 feet above sea level

Lakes . . .



Lovely Darran Lake at Ferndale

Llyn Fawr



Pen Pych Mountain (1,600 ft.)
from Rhigos Road

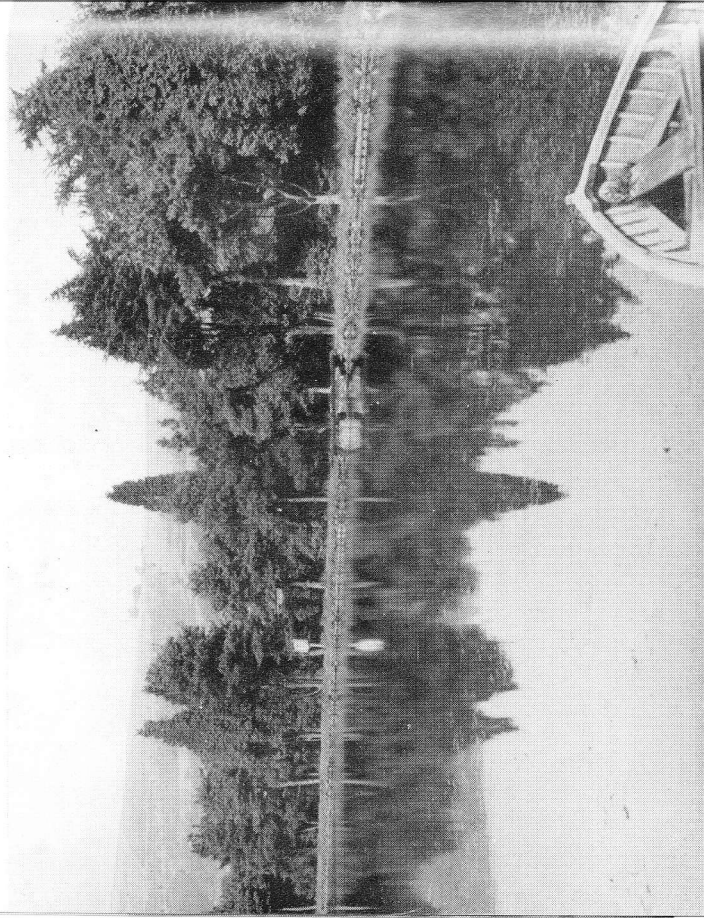
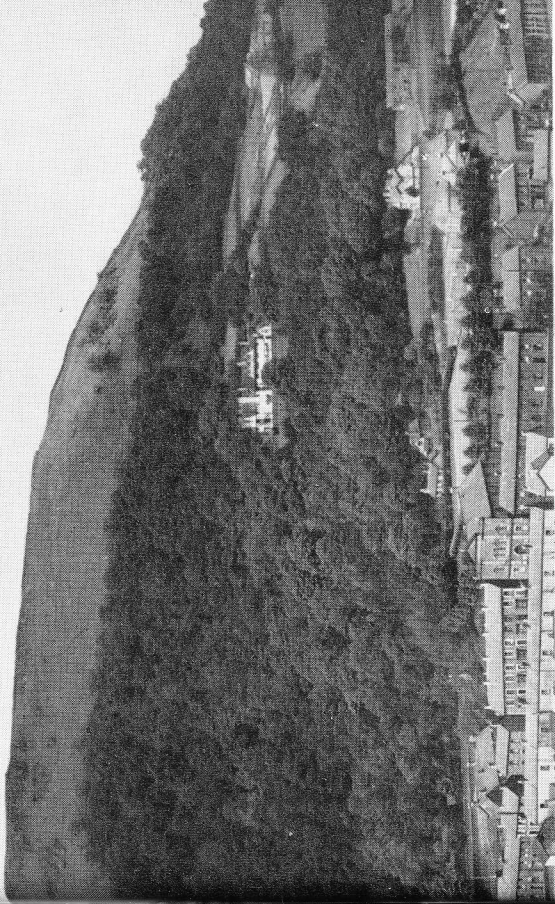


Photo by Pontypriidd Observer

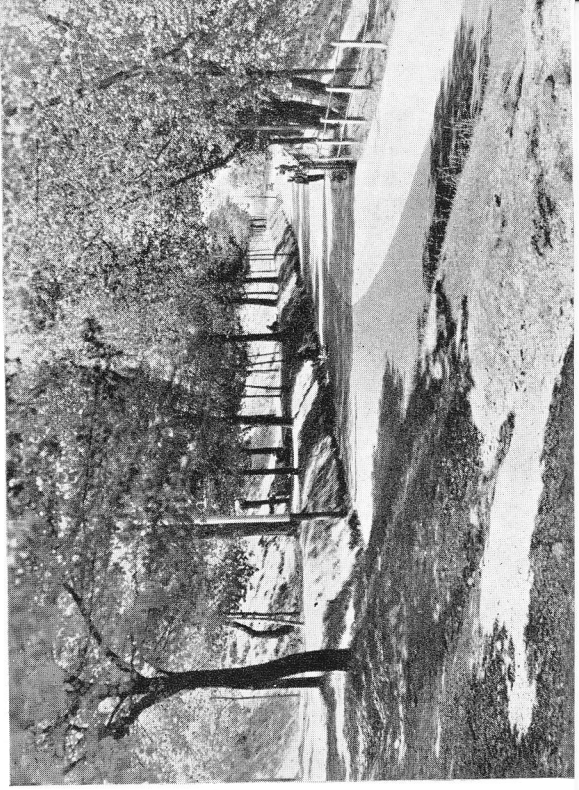
Glyncornel Fishing Lake,
Llwynypia

... and woods



Glyncornel Woods, Llwynypia

Pentwyn road linking Ton and Treorchy



RHONDDA COAL

THE Rhondda is known the world over for its coal. Although the domestic use of coal was known at an early period its commercial value was not appreciated until towards the end of the 18th century when Dr. Griffiths opened a level at Hafod which was named "Lefel yr Eirw" (the Eirw Level). This is the earliest record of coal being mined and exported from the Rhondda. The second commercial enterprise commenced in 1807 at Dinas, where Mr. Walter Coffin opened the first of a number of levels and later sunk two shafts, the second of which was at a depth of 80 yards. This pit proved very remunerative and came to be celebrated as the "Rhondda No. 3"; the coal was of such excellent quality that Coffin contented himself with working the more shallow seams although he had intended to sink deeper. Men came from all parts of Wales, even from England, seeking employment, and in a short space of time a complete new village sprang up, and consequently Dinas became the earliest modern settlement in the Rhondda. Transportation of the coal was by tramroad which Coffin laid in 1810 for a distance of three miles to link Dinas with Hafod where Dr. Richard Griffiths had earlier laid a tramroad to the Glamorgan canal at Treforest.

Thus the discovery of coal heralded a new and permanent era in the Rhondda. For about 40 years, however, the industry was stagnant since it was generally supposed that no coal was to be found higher up the Rhondda than Dinas, and so until 1850 the pastoral character of the area had only been disturbed at Dinas and slightly at Hafod and Cymmer. The grand awakening came early in the second half of the 19th century with the sinking of two pits in Treherbert (afterwards known as the Bute Colliery), by the Marquis of Bute in 1855 as the result of a prize of £500 offered for the first sinking and finding of coal in the upper part of the valley. This event completely dispelled the belief that there was no coal to be found higher up the valley than Dinas, and as a result the industry received a tremendous impetus. Thenceforth the Rhondda experienced a "Coal Rush" and numerous shafts were sunk within comparatively short distances of each other throughout the entire length and breadth of the two valleys, so that by 1924 more than 50 pits had been sunk in which 50,000 miners were employed. In June, 1951, only 20 pits were in production, employing 14,000 miners and having an annual output of 3½ million tons. With the rapid expansion of the coal mining industry there was a tremendous influx of population and Rhondda very rapidly had concentrated within its boundaries one of the most intensive and highly populated mining com-

munities in Great Britain. In the ten years between 1871 and 1881 the population increased by nearly 40,000 and little imagination is needed to realise the highly intensive activity in all phases which took place during that period. The rate of development can, however, be gauged by the following census of population figures—in 1801 the population was 542; 951 in 1851; 3,935 in 1861; 16,914 in 1871; 55,632 in 1881; 88,351 in 1891; 113,735 in 1901; 152,781 in 1911 and 162,717 in 1921. The peak population was reached in 1924 when the estimated figure was 167,900. Social, spiritual, educational, cultural and political development followed closely in the wake of this surging tide, and there emerged ardent pioneers in each of these fields.

The whole vast economic structure in the Rhondda has, therefore, been built up on coal, which has become its basic industry. Down to 1920 the area enjoyed great prosperity, and then commenced a slump which brought about the temporary eclipse of the industry. The factors contributing to it were various—the loss of markets following World War I (which were not recaptured), the substitution of oil for fuel in sea-going transport, serious competition from the Continent, and the effect of a number of industrial strikes, which culminated in the General Strike of 1926. In the absence of any other industry in the Rhondda to which one could turn for alternative employment, the young and virile were compelled to seek work elsewhere. And so commenced a mass migration, and by 1940 (a period of 16 years) 50,000 people had left the area.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the period of depression between the two World Wars it became apparent that the introduction of other industries into the area was a vital necessity in order to provide alternative means of employment and to bring about the rehabilitation of the Rhondda. Accordingly, the attention of the National Industrial Development Council of Wales (formed in 1932) and the Government was turned in this direction, and as a result the Special Areas Act came into being in 1934. Under its provisions many new factories were erected in South Wales, the major development being the Trading Estate at Treforest, and the Council received grants amounting in the aggregate to nearly one million pounds for the purpose of improving the public services and clearing and laying out land for recreational amenities, etc. One of the objects of these schemes was to provide as much work for as many unemployed men as possible during the depression. In 1939, three large factories which were erected in the area were completed and went into production; these were

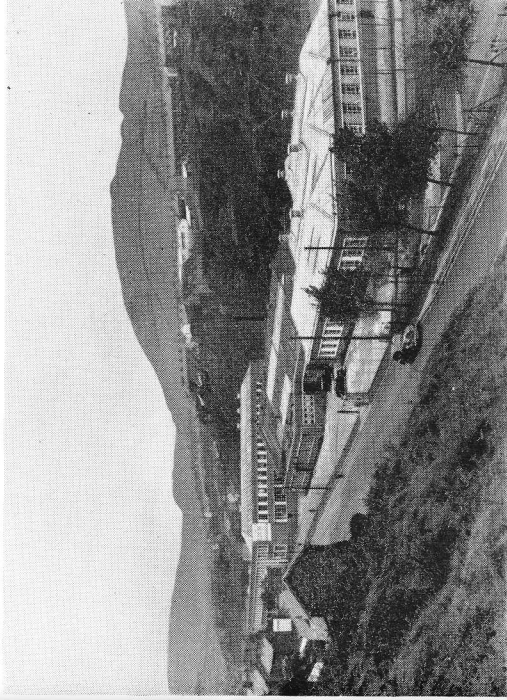
engaged in the manufacture of clothing, metallic slide fasteners and tinsel, and slit rayon ribbons. Thenceforth, a measure of prosperity returned to the area, but this was attributable in the main to the outbreak of war which brought about a fevered armament production drive throughout the country, and the absorption of all available labour.

The policy of the Government that there should be no return to the bad days which created the "Depressed Areas" of the inter-war years produced in 1945 the Distribution of Industry Act. This Act, which was an improvement on the Special Areas Act of 1934, scheduled certain areas throughout the country as "Development Areas" and these were built up around the former "Depressed Areas". Rhondda is a part of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Development Area, which also includes Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, etc. Under the provisions of the 1945 Act, 26 new factory buildings have been erected in the Rhondda, including extensions to each of the three pre-war factories, and a very wide diversity of processes is carried on in them, for example, clothing manufacture, welded stainless steel tubes, bedroom furniture, fabrication of steel structure, laminated and coil spring manufacture for road vehicles, wholesale bookbinding and letterpress work, footwear, motorcycles, tricycles, etc. In June, 1951, these factories were employing 2,180 males and 2,874 females, a total of 5,054 persons, and it is estimated that there will be jobs for another 1,370 males and 1,795 females, a total of 3,165, if development of the factories proceeds to the full capacity for which they were designed.

A far more balanced industrial structure has therefore been achieved, and the people of the Rhondda are lighter of heart and spirit having shed the mantle of depression and suffering which had enveloped them for so long during the lean years between the Wars.

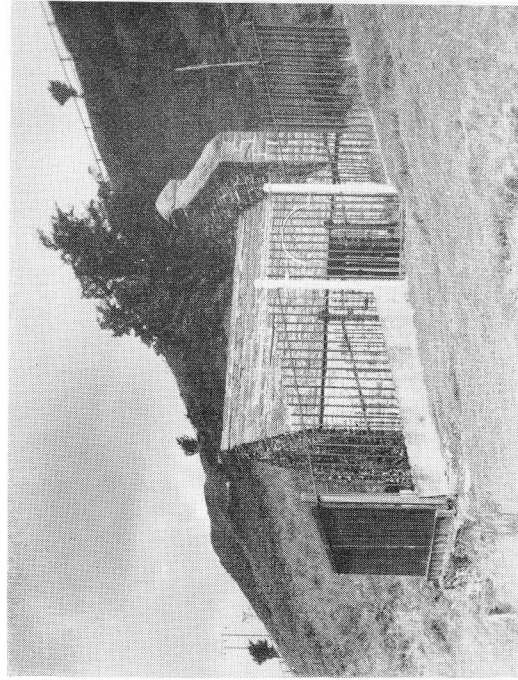
Although the introduction of a hitherto unfamiliar aspect of industrial life has brought about a transformation in the Rhondda, yet, ironically enough, it is on coal that in the last analysis all depends. When in February, 1947, the fuel crisis threatened to paralyse the country's economic organisation, the miners of the Rhondda set a precedent by offering to work on Sundays until the difficult situation had eased. Again, during a similar crisis in 1951 (when the Prime Minister made a personal appeal to every miner exhorting him to greater effort and urging consumers in every walk of life to exercise the strictest economy in the use of fuel), the miners of the Rhondda were working strenuously every day of the week including Saturdays and Sundays in an effort to avert the crisis. Records are being broken in the valleys today—The Dare Colliery, Treorchy, was the only colliery in South Wales to work

Modern industry . . .



A factory site,
Cymmer Road,
Dinas

. . . and a medieval relic



St. Mary's Well,
Penrhys

THE RHONDDA TOWNS

AGAIN RHONDDA COAL.

on the Saturday morning following Good Friday, 1951—and the miner, for a long period the forgotten factor of industry, has again come into his own and is its star producer.

Rhondda is in a position to again make a very vital and valuable contribution towards the recovery of the nation's coal industry for 900 million tons of workable reserves of coal still lie beneath the mountains at the northern end of the valleys. Of these vast reserves, 170 million tons—sufficient to last more than 100 years—lie buried beneath the lovely mountains which divide the Rhondda and Aberdare Valleys. To win this coal men are needed from both valleys, and so a major scheme of re-organisation and development has been launched at Maerdy at an estimated cost of £5 million, which will eventually provide work for 2,700 men—2,000 from the Rhondda side and the remainder from the Aberdare side. The scheme provides for a tunnel deep in the bowels of the earth through the mountain for a distance of two-and-a-half-miles thus linking Maerdy with the village of Cwmdare in the Aberdare Valley. The tunnel was slowly driven from Maerdy on the one side and Aberdare on the other, at the rate of 20 yards a week through hard rock, rubble and earth, leaving behind roadways 11 ft. high and 16 ft. wide lined with strong steel arches. The men working in the tunnel met in October, 1951, and so the first important milestone in this mining project was reached. The 170 million tons of coal will be developed from and raised at Maerdy by the horizon system of mining, and it is estimated by the end of 1954, when the scheme has been completed and the maximum output achieved, that the output will be 5,000 tons of saleable coal each day.

The possibility of extensive re-organisation and development of the industry to win the remainder of the 900 million tons of coal is being explored at the extremity of the Rhondda Fawr Valley.

Coal and the miner have become front page news! The wheel has turned full circle!

* * * * *

THE Rhondda is a complete local government administrative unit with a total population of 111,357 (1951 census), and not, as is commonly supposed, a town. In fact, the Rhondda consists of several towns each of which is largely self-contained in its varied interests and activities. A brief description of these various townships and the Electoral Ward in which they are situate, follows:—

TRHEHERBERT, BLAENRHONDDA AND BLAENCWM (Ward 1, Population 10,676)

Trheherbert has a most picturesque background in the mountain of Pen Pych (the Sentinel), which has an honourable place in Welsh tradition and literature. In the glen on each side lie Blaenrhondda and Blaencwm, where the ancient glory of mountain crags, waterfalls, and woodland has not been marred by industrialisation. Trheherbert forms one of the gateways of the Rhondda as the mountain road to the west over Carn-y-Moesau to Rhigos is not only an outstanding engineering achievement but affords also a panoramic view of the mountains. A modern hospital and swimming baths have been constructed here.

There are four collieries in this locality still in production—the Blaenrhondda, Tydraw, Fernhill and Dunraven Collieries. In addition a new post-war factory manufactures welded stainless steel tubes and tube making machines.

Beneath these mountains hundreds of millions of tons of coal still lie buried, and the possibility of re-organising and developing Fernhill Colliery along modern methods of horizon mining to work this coal is being explored.

TREORCHY AND CWMPARC (Ward 2, Population 12,122)

The modern industrial development which has helped to revitalise the Rhondda commenced at Treorchy in 1939 with the erection of a large clothing factory. Since the war the factory has been extended 100 per cent. and has a capacity for the employment of 3,000 persons. In addition, two new post-war factories are engaged in the manufacture of bedroom furniture and the fabrication of steel structure. Treorchy has a strong cultural tradition particularly in choral singing, and many national laurels have been won by its people. The National Eisteddfod was held here in 1928 and the Gorsedd Circle still stands to mark the occasion. Here the valley widens out to a greater degree than in other parts of the valleys, and its flat and even character has lent itself to the laying of playing fields, of which there are several, including soccer, rugby, cricket, tennis, etc.

Cwmparc is an offshoot of Treorchy and its two collieries—the Parc and Dare, with their modern pithead baths—are still in production. The Parc and Dare Colliery Band is nationally known and has won many coveted laurels.

TON AND PENTRE (Ward 3, Population 8,329).

Pentre is the administrative centre of the Rhondda, and here the Council hold their monthly meetings.

On the site of the disused Pentre Colliery the Council have made available a level area of 11 acres which they propose to develop for recreational purposes. This was accomplished by removing a shale tip (rubbish brought to the surface during the productive life of the Colliery) measuring 114,365 cubic yards. This rubbish was in turn used to fill and level certain ravines which existed in the area. A Rempoy Factory erected at Pentre provides employment for seriously disabled persons under special conditions, and is engaged in wood working of many kinds.

On the mountainside at Ton (known as the Waun) a nine-hole golf course has been laid, and among notable visitors have been the King who, when Duke of York, enjoyed a round on the course with a prominent miners' representative. Close by, the Dinam Park Bowling Green, laid on a shale tip, is another example of the efforts which are being made to obliterate the scars of industrialism. The police in the upper parts of the valley have their headquarters at Ton, and a weekly police court is held.

In this locality the new intermingles with the old, for it was at Ton and Gelli that the ruins of prehistoric towns were unearthed.

GELLI AND YSTRAD (Ward 4, Population 9,045)

As far as is known the first place of Christian worship in the Rhondda was the Church at Ystradfydwg which was dedicated to St. Dyfodwg in the 6th century. The view is held that the word "Ystrad" is derived from the Latin "Strata", that is, inherited from the Roman invaders, and meaning "a spread out", or a general term for "a low flat valley through which runs a river". Ystrad provides a gateway over Penrhys mountain to Tylorstown in the Rhondda Fach and on to Aberdare through Ferndale.

Penrhys is of particular significance for here was erected an Image of the Virgin Mary to which pilgrimages were made. About the year 1538 "the Image was along with divers others from England and Wales whereunto any common pilgrimage was used" burnt at Chelsea by Order of Cromwell. In addition, at Penrhys exists a Well known as St. Mary's Well, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and pilgrimages to the site have recently been resumed. The Well, the water of which was believed to have remarkable curative qualities, is now maintained by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

The fine open space of Gelligaled Park, with its many different playing pitches and swimming pool, offers varied recreational advantages, and is a manifestation of the spirit of the new age.

The Gelli Steam Coal Colliery and the Nebo Level are still in production, and a disused cinema has been converted into a factory for the manufacture of interior springs.

LWYNYPIA AND CLYDACH VALE (Ward 5, Population 10,520) Llwynypia is on the outer fringe of Tonypandy and is the entrance to that part of the Rhondda which is called Mid-Rhondda. It was at Llwynypia that a visitor to the Rhondda in 1803 said he saw the biggest oak tree that he had ever seen; it measured six feet in diameter. On the summit of the mountain is an 18-hole golf course. In the valley can be seen the second of the Council's tip clearance schemes, where a shale tip of 336,493 cubic yards was removed and a level area of 5.64 acres made available. It is proposed to develop this site for housing and recreational purposes. Nearby, five new factories have been erected two of which are "Greenfell Factories" specially provided for the employment of ex-miners suffering from the dreaded dust disease, known as pneumoconiosis.

Clydach Vale is a small township on the hill, but its life turns upon Tonypandy—a town famous in the life of the Rhondda. The Cambrian Colliery is also in production.

The Ynyseynon Nursery School opened in 1936 (for children aged 2 to 7 years) was one of the two first nursery schools of this kind to be opened in the country; the other was at Bradford.

TONYPANDY AND TREALAW (Ward 6, Population 10,738).

Tonypandy has long since become famous for the prominent part it played in formulating the industrial and political history of the Rhondda. It is the hub of Rhondda's varied and numerous activities. Its large and busy shopping centre is particularly attractive for a wide area, including districts as far afield as Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch. The Mid-Rhondda Athletic Ground is reserved solely for educational and L.F.A. Youth Centre activities, and many important matches, including the Annual Sports of the Glamorgan Secondary Schools Association, are held there. The Council have acquired a disused Chapel building and have converted it into a modern branch library, which has recently been opened.

The Old Market Hall has been adapted as a factory, and is occupied by a firm producing surgical instruments, hospital furniture and hypodermic syringes.

Trealaw is an offshoot of Tonypandy, and although principally residential it contains several public institutions. Carnegie Welfare Centre and Clinic provide up-to-date maternity and

In Rhondda towns

TREALAW

child welfare services, which compare favourably with similar facilities throughout the country, and also houses a well-equipped rheumatism clinic. A second nursery school, similar to but more modern than that at Llwynypia, has been erected here, and was visited by the King and Queen in 1941. The Educational Settlement at Maes-yr-Haf played an outstanding part in the provision of cultural facilities during the years of depression.

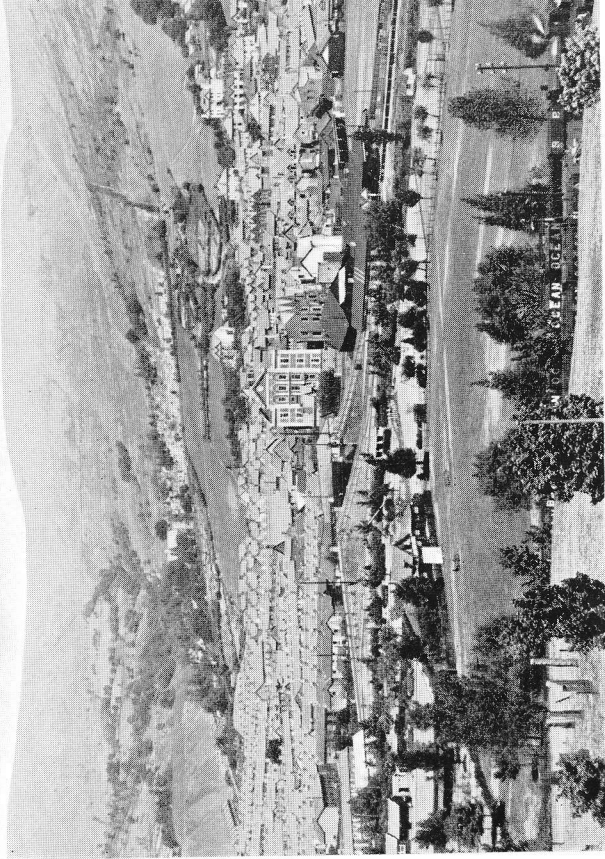
PENYGRAIG, DINAS, WILLIAMSTOWN (Ward 7, Population 9,340) Penygraig and Williamstown form another gateway from the Rhondda to the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan, the City and Port of Cardiff, and to the south coast pleasure resorts of Porthcawl and Barry.

On the outskirts of Williamstown, a short distance outside the Council's boundary, are two post-war factories manufacturing brass band and wood-wind instruments and mouth organs. It is believed that these processes are unique in Wales.

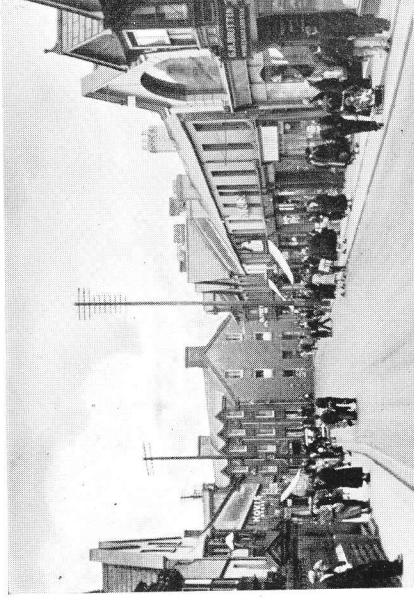
Dinas was the first modern settlement in the Rhondda. Dinas (a Welsh word meaning "City") belies its former eminence in a bygone era, for it is believed to have undoubtedly been a Druidic City in Mid-Glamorgan Siluria. When the Roman legions plundered and razed the city while the Druids were attending a pagan festival on the top of the mountain at Penygraig, the Druids summoned to their assistance the Glamorgan Silurians, and together they massacred the Roman legions in a pitched battle. A mound or cairn was later erected to mark the event, and a farm still bears the name Carn Celyn, meaning "Cairn of the Enemy".

Two of the first three factories to be erected in the Rhondda were built at Dinas, and at the present time they employ several hundreds of people, mostly women. The factories have since been extended and a further extension is now in course of erection. The Naval Colliery at Penygraig—comprising the Anthony and Naval pits—are also still in production. The second attempt to raise coal for commercial purposes in the Rhondda was made at Dinas, and the name of Walter Coffin is still remembered for his early initiative in this direction. Land laid out by unemployed men under the provisions of the Special Areas Act, 1934, provides a football ground, children's recreation ground and other recreational facilities, and these were formally opened by King Edward VIII.

PORTH, CYMMER AND TREBANOG (Ward 8, Population 11,926) The meaning of the word "Porth" is "gateway" for it is the entrance to the Rhondda Fawr and Rhondda Fach, where the main traffic of both valleys, by road and rail, converge. The confluence of the two rivers is actually at Cymmer, the meaning of which is "the joining of two rivers of the same name".



A general view of Treorchy



High Street,
Treorchy

Bronwydd Park, with its swimming pool and other modern recreational amenities, still retains the natural features and characteristics which prompted visitors of a century and more ago to write in such glowing terms of the beauty of the Rhondda.

The four new post-war factory buildings which have been erected at Cymmer are in production and are engaged in the manufacture of tin toys, footwear, travel luggage, accessories for leather trades, and the processing and distribution of milk. A second Remploy Factory is engaged in the manufacture of utility furniture and industrial woodwork. In addition, the site of the now disused Insoles Colliery has been converted into a small trading estate, where several separate firms are engaged in light industries. The first chapel to be erected in the Rhondda was at Cymmer in 1748.

There are two exits from Porth, one leading through Cymmer and Trebanog to Tonyrefail and the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan, the other to Trehafod, which forms the outer fringe of the Rhondda, and thence to Pontypridd and Cardiff.

A regular Police Court is held at Porth composing the other unit in the administration of justice in the Rhondda.

YNSHIR AND WATTSTOWN (Ward 9, Population 8,987)

Ynysir lies at the foot of the Rhondda Fach and is mainly residential. Further up the Valley, which is narrower than its sister Valley, is Wattstown. Here is the National Colliery which is now the practical training centre and training pit for adults and juveniles taking up work in the coal-mining industry. This is closely allied to the Crawshay Villa Mining Centre of the Rhondda Technical Institute where theoretical tuition in the industry is provided.

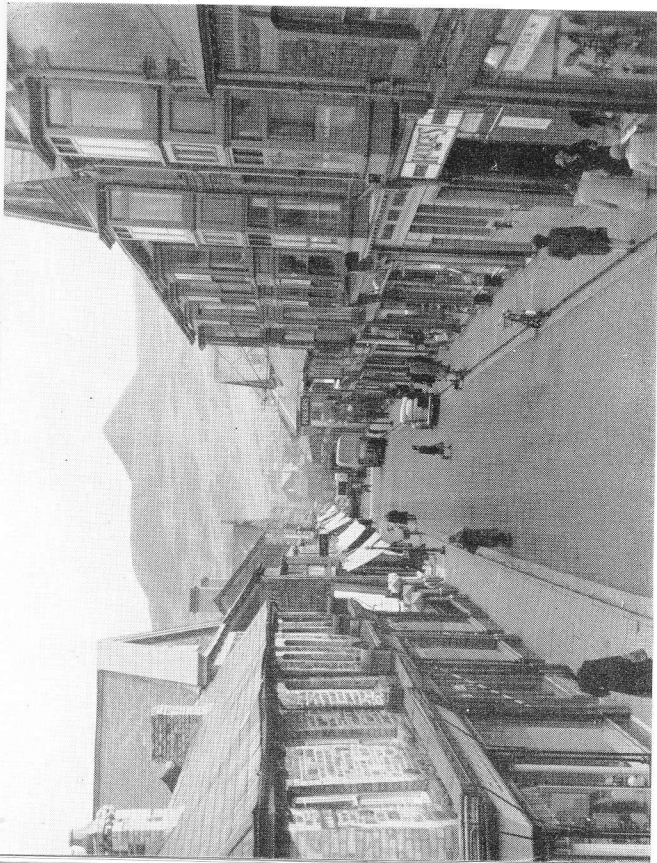
PONTYGWAITH AND TYLORSTOWN (Ward 10, Population 8,261)

This is a busy mining locality, for the Tylorstown Pits are still in production. It contains a strong communal life which has contributed immensely to the cultural and musical life of the Rhondda. The Pendyrus Male Voice Choir has its home in Tylorstown, and the national achievements of this choir during the years of depression offer sound proof of the virility and courage of its people. At Tylorstown the main road over Penrhyds mountain facilitates communication between the two Valleys.

At Pontygwaith two post-war factories are engaged in the manufacture of rubber components for all industries, spring interior mattresses, bedding and upholstery, and an existing building has also been converted into a factory.

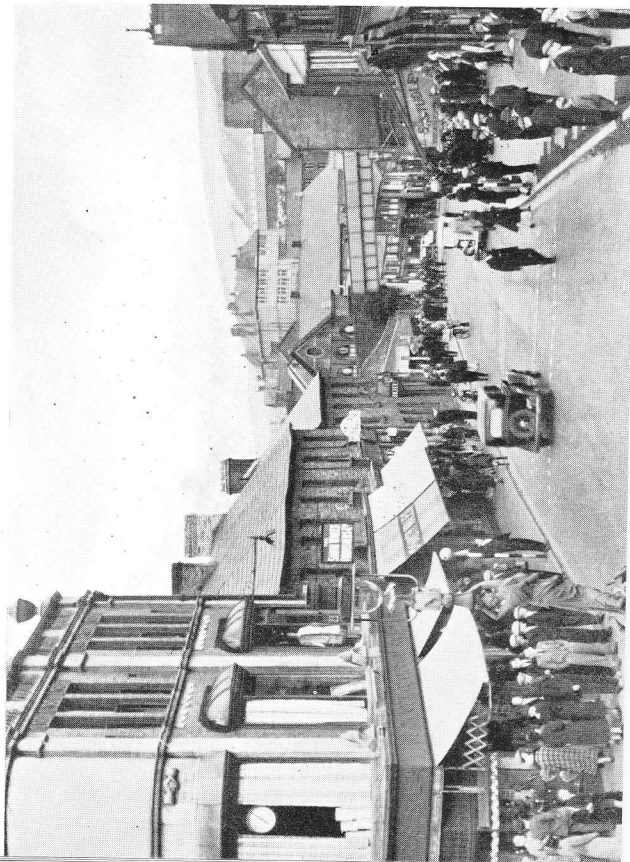
FERDALE AND MAERDY (Ward 11, Population 12,686)

These are in fact two separate townships, each possessing a very close community of interest.



Hannah Street, Porth

De Winton Street, Tonyypandy



Nestling under the towering crags of the mountains at Ferndale are a natural lake (used for boating), a park containing recreational amenities and a fine modern Grammar School. Nearby are four new post-war factories, two of which are again of the Grenfell type. All the factories are in production, and among their products are fire-fighting appliances, paints and industrial finishes and enamels, and such processes as wholesale bookbinding of all kinds and letterpress work.

Maerdy lies at the extremity of Rhondda Fach, and is connected with the Aberdare Valley by a mountain road over which a regular bus service operates. The £5 million mining project at Maerdy will, when completed, provide employment for about 2,700 men and juveniles and will ensure prosperity for this once embittered town for the next hundred years and more. It was here that the depression (which rapidly spread throughout the whole of the Rhondda) began, and it is fitting that the rebirth of Maerdy should be brought about by this major scheme for the development of the coal-mining industry. The three pits at present in production at Ferndale will be closed when the new scheme is under way, and all the labour from these pits will be absorbed.

The third of the colliery tip clearance schemes was undertaken at Maerdy. Here a tip having a capacity of 245,184 cubic yards was removed, thus making available a levelled area of 15 acres. It is intended to develop the site for recreational purposes.

The Medical Research Council have recently commenced a mass radiography at Maerdy where 92 per cent. of the people were interviewed and X-rayed in a little more than three weeks. The Council have stated that "nowhere in the world has there been such a comprehensive survey of a community." It is the intention of the Council to X-ray the entire adult population of the Rhondda Fach.

66 post-war houses have been erected in this locality and a further 174 houses are under contract at Maerdy.

* * * * *

SECTION IV

SITES FOR INDUSTRY

RHONDDA'S advantages as a home of new industries have already been indicated in broad outline. When the new factories began to spring up in the Valleys they were not breaking virgin ground. Rhondda grew up on industrial enterprise and the facilities and public services which made possible the success of her early ventures were there for those that followed—good drainage facilities for surface water, sewage and trade effluent, gas, water and electricity.

Many sites which are considered to be capable of development for industrial purposes still exist in the Rhondda; some are adjacent to railway communications, whilst others are already provided with railway sidings. Full particulars may be obtained from the Clerk of the Council.

ROAD AND RAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Rail communications—essential to the now-flourishing collieries and the thriving factories which have sprung up around them—link the two Valleys to the Port of Cardiff and also through the Blaenrhondda Tunnel to Port Talbot and the West. Prior to 1844 no railway communications existed in the Rhondda, but in that year an extension of the existing railway at Pontypridd was made to Dinas, and a further extension to Treherbert was opened in December, 1855. These railways were laid firstly for the sole purpose of transporting coal, but in 1859 a passenger train service was commenced as far as Ystrad, and this was subsequently extended to Treherbert in 1865.

In addition the two Rhondda Valleys are served by over 135 miles of roads of which 38.48 miles are classified by the Ministry of Transport, 20.1 miles being placed in class 1, 16.36 in class 2, and 2.02 in class 3.

Outlets from the Rhondda are provided by good roads at several points. From Trehafod the road to Pontypridd, A.4058 which is 1½ miles below the Council's boundary at Trehafod, leads to Treforest and Cardiff. Pontypridd is also the junction of other roads leading to Aberdare, the Merthyr Valleys and to Pontypool, Hereford and Gloucester. From Penygraig there is a road (A.4119) to Tonyrefail and thence to Cardiff, Barry, Bridgend and Porthcawl. The roads over the mountains from Treorchy provide links with Bridgend, Porthcawl, Neath, Port Talbot, Swansea and Llanelli (A.4061 and A.4107). From Treherbert the mountain road (A.4061) to Hirwaun provides an alternative route to Neath and Swansea and also gives access to Brecon and

(continued on page 38)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mid-Wales and to the Aberdare and Merthyr Valleys. The Aberdare Valley is also accessible from the Rhondda by means of the mountain road from Maerdy (B.4277). Access to the Rhondda is likely to be greatly improved in the future. The Glamorgan County Council has already dealt with the outlines of a £.5 million plan, the broad aims of which include the linking of Rhondda, Aberdare and Pontypridd more effectively with Cardiff Barry and the East-West route.

The Rhondda Valleys are themselves linked by a road over the mountain connecting Ystrad-Rhondda in the Rhondda Fawr with Tylorstown in the Rhondda Fach (B.4512).

If there is one aspect of life in the valleys upon which the effects of industrialisation have been beneficial it is their educational and cultural development. Schools, libraries and health services followed rapidly on the heels of the great influx of population, and enlightened administrators have kept themselves abreast of the times. The people of Rhondda are proud of these facilities, which compare favourably with any in the country.

HOUSING

The majority of the dwelling houses in the Rhondda were built during the later stages of the last century, and early in the present century, to provide accommodation for the great influx of miners. These houses are mostly erected in a series of terraces running parallel with the valleys, and are generally constructed of local stone, quarried from the hillsides, with Welsh Slate roofs.

During the period between the wars the Council, as the Housing Authority, erected 287 permanent houses throughout the area. The post-war housing programme up to the 31st of March, 1951, resulted in a further 603 dwellings, of which number 250 are temporary bungalows. The number of privately owned houses in the area is 28,373.

The future sites remaining in the valleys, which are suitable for the economical erection of houses, are scattered and limited in size. When these areas have been fully developed, the Authority will of necessity have to turn its attention to the problems of reconstruction.

EDUCATION

Rhondda is an excepted district under the Education Act, 1944, and the Rhondda Urban District Council is the Divisional Executive, while the Glamorgan County Council is now the local education authority. The area is served by :

- 2 Nursery Schools,
- 33 Primary (Infant) Schools (with nursery classes),
- 37 Primary (Junior) Schools,
- 2 Welsh Primary Schools,
- 16 Secondary (Modern) Schools,
- 6 Secondary (Grammar) Schools,

Rhondda schools

- 1 Technical Institute,
- 2 Mining and Technical Institutes,
- 21 Local Education Authority Youth Centres,
- 3 Community Centres.

The number of pupils attending the primary and secondary schools is 20,604, this total being made up as follows :

Primary (including the two nursery and Welsh Schools)	14,012
Secondary (modern)	3,559
" (grammar)	2,740
" (technical)	293

At the two nursery schools children are admitted at the age of two years, and continue to attend until the age of seven, when they pass on to the junior school. The infant schools admit children a year later, at the age of three. In both types of school formal teaching only begins at five years of age, the younger children being cared for in specially equipped nursery rooms, where their speech and physical and mental activities are trained and developed through the use of nursery apparatus, toys, games, and corporate activities. After leaving the infant schools, children proceed to the junior schools, where they remain to the age of 11 years, and then move on to the appropriate secondary school.

At the secondary (modern) schools accommodation and equipment are provided in special rooms for science, art and artistic crafts, woodwork and metalwork for boys and domestic subjects for girls. Apart from giving a sound general education pupils can attend to the age of 16.

At the secondary (grammar) schools courses of instruction in the arts, the sciences, and in crafts are given and lead to the examinations for the General Certificate of Education at the Ordinary, Advanced and Scholarship level of the Welsh Joint Education Committee and comparable examinations. The number of pupils admitted to the secondary (grammar) schools is 550 each year.

These schools have provision also for teaching commercial subjects. The Tonypany secondary (grammar) school has a commercial department specially equipped and staffed. Boys and girls trained in commercial work leave to take up clerical and commercial posts in industry and commerce.

On completing the secondary (grammar) school course students are eligible to apply for scholarships and exhibitions offered for award by the Glamorgan Education Authority. Students from the Technical Institute (Secondary Dept.), compete annually for scholarships offered by the Glamorgan Education Authority and tenable at their Technical College at Treforest.

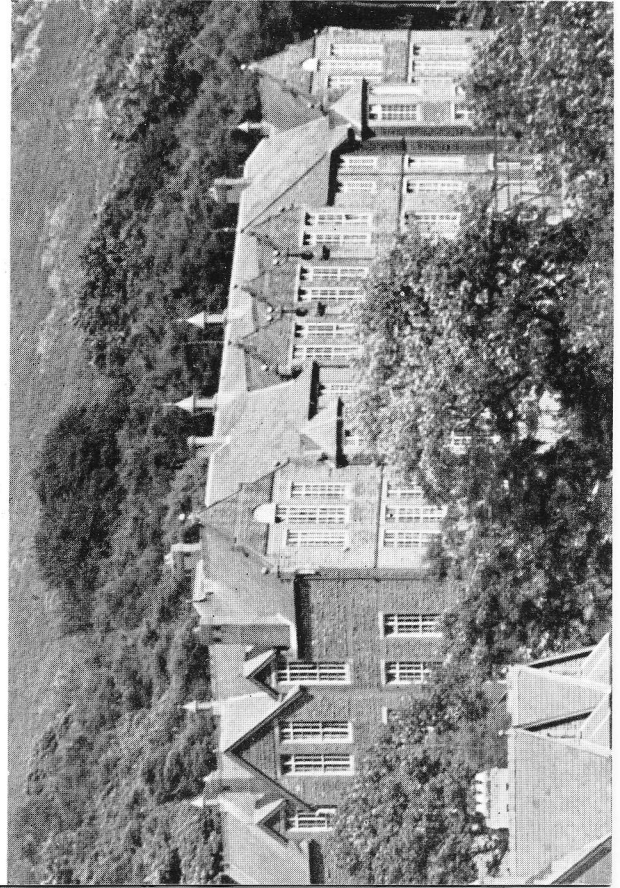


Alaw Nursery School,
Trealaw



Ferndale Secondary Grammar School

Pentre Secondary Grammar School



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Relaxation and recreation

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

In addition to the six secondary (grammar) schools, a secondary (technical) school serves the whole of Rhondda, and boys are admitted between the ages of 13 and 14 years. The aim of this school is to combine a sound course of general and technical education with the teaching of technical skill so as to prepare boys for entry to the skilled trades and the branches of the engineering industry. At the same time, the curriculum is sufficiently wide and elastic to allow successful boys to pass on to the university or technical college for the further study of engineering and building subjects.

The school is divided into junior and senior departments. The normal course extends over three years, and instruction is given in mathematics, physics, chemistry, electrotechnics, engineering-drawing, woodwork, engineering and building science, as well as in English, geography, history, physical training, and music. The pupils, therefore, acquire a useful cultural background, in addition to receiving a sound technical training. Since the opening of the school a large number of boys have passed through the school, and have proceeded to engineering posts in industry, both in the Rhondda and all over the country.

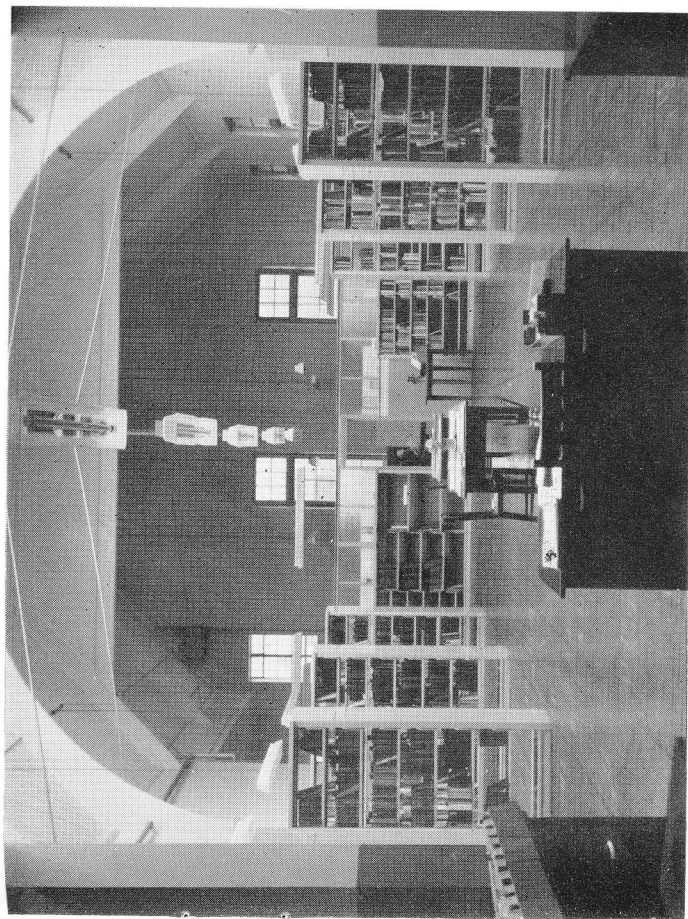
New industries in Rhondda would find the secondary (technical) school a valuable reservoir of boys who have been specifically trained in technical subjects, while the curricula of the secondary grammar and modern schools are of a more general nature but include arts and crafts and training in practical subjects.

The Ministry of Education has also recognized the technical school for the purpose of training handicraft teachers, and this course extends over a period of three years in the senior department. In addition, first year courses leading to the national certificate in engineering and building are also provided at the school.

EVENING CLASSES

Apart from the technical work done at the technical school, Rhondda has its own system of evening classes, and these are held at thirty-six centres situated throughout the area, where 4,000 attend each session. A large variety of subjects is taken, including science, commercial, art, literary, domestic, technical and handicraft subjects, together with physical training, ambulance and home nursing.

In connection with the evening classes, two fully-equipped senior mining and technical institutes are situated in the area, one at Ton Pentre, and the other at Trealaw, and at these, as well as at the technical school building, advanced evening instruction in mining and technical subjects is given. Pre-entry courses



Tonypandy Branch Library

are also held during the day for boys entering the mining industry. There are, in addition, part-time day courses in mining and boys are released from the collieries to attend these courses. Part-time (day) courses are also held for building apprentices.

"SERVICE OF YOUTH"
The Rhondda Education Committee in its "Service of Youth" undertakes a direct responsibility for the welfare of boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 20 who have ceased full-time education, and makes provision for their leisure occupation and interests.

With this end in view the Education Committee has established 18 youth centres primarily for boys and girls who have left school. Three Junior Youth Centres, for children of school age, have also been established to provide leisure time activities both cultural and recreational during the evening. These centres are staffed by a warden, an assistant warden, and competent tutors who undertake such activities as music, drama, art, needlework, leatherwork, woodwork, cookery, discussion groups and physical training, as well as supervising recreational activities such as ballroom dancing and games. The boys and girls attending these centres number approximately 1,100. The Education Committee employs a full-time Youth Organiser to supervise this work.

To provide the youth centres with a programme of work which lends direction and point to their activities, annual functions are organised such as music and drama festivals, arts and crafts exhibitions, and youth sports.

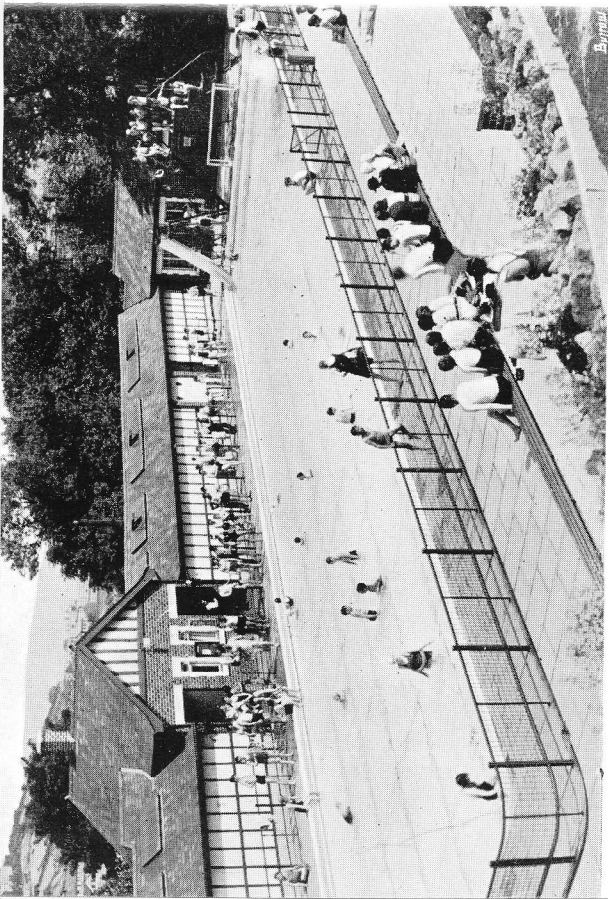
In these and other youth activities there is close co-operation between the Education Committee and the various voluntary youth organisations in the area. A residential course for Youth Leaders is held annually at the Y.M.C.A. Youth College (Colleg-y-Fro), Rhoose, Glam.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

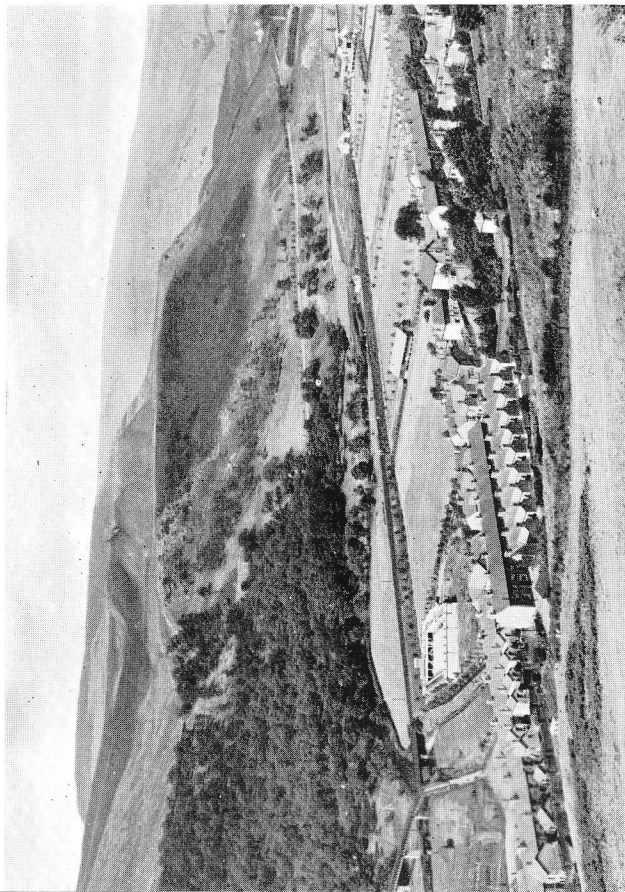
Under the Government evacuation scheme, community centres were set up in various parts of the valley, primarily for the use of adult evacuees in the area. The evacuees have now returned, and the community centres have been taken over by the Education Committee. Three centres are now in operation, and in the near future it is intended to extend the scope of this service.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is being carried out at all schools and youth centres, and the Education Committee hopes, in the near future, to provide a properly equipped gymnasium for every secondary (modern) and secondary (grammar) school in the area. A start



The fine swimming pool in Bronwydd Park, Porth



Gelligaled Recreation Ground, Ystrad-Rhondda from Penrhys Road

has already been made on this provision. Two physical training organisers are employed.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Apart from the many educational facilities provided by the Education Committee, considerable attention is given to the health of pupils attending Rhondda schools. The medical inspection and treatment of school children, both primary and secondary, is carried out by the District School Medical Officer, helped by three assistant school medical officers, four dental surgeons, four dental assistants, and twenty-one school nurses. Children requiring treatment are dealt with at five school clinics.

In addition to the various forms of treatment given at the school clinics, arrangements are also made for the provision of hospital and consultant treatment, whenever necessary, for pupils attending all the maintained schools in the district.

School children are provided with a mid-day meal and milk, and at the present time, 10,000 dinners are served each day from six large central kitchens, and two self-contained school canteens (Tonypandy Secondary School and the Technical Institute). Two central kitchens have recently been opened bringing the daily provision to 15,000 meals.

Milk is also supplied to all school children, either free or on payment according to the income of the parents.

In connection with its school meals service the Education Committee employs two organizers.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The public library service of the Rhondda Urban District Council, begun in January, 1939, is the youngest service of the authority. Up to that time, Rhondda had been served in the matter of libraries by Workmen's Institutes throughout the area. In consequence of the industrial depression, and the closing down of many collieries, it was found difficult to maintain these libraries, so representations were made to the authority to adopt the Public Libraries Acts, which they did in December, 1938.

When the service was inaugurated, distribution was carried out mainly through the medium of the institutes, but demands have been such that the library committee has given considerable thought to plans for post-war development. It has a central library building, and plans are afoot for the supply of five regional full-time branches in strategic parts of the valleys, each comprising a lending library, children's room, and study or reference room. One of these was opened in May, 1950. Meanwhile it has recognised the usefulness of shop branches as temporary expedients to supplement the work of the present central library and institute branches.

The libraries have 30,000 registered readers. In an adolescent

stage, the service has already built up a well-selected collection of 65,912 volumes. It is especially strong in technical works. During the year ended March, 1950, 37,980 non-fiction books were given out, and the total issue of books was 359,621.

The central library, at Pentre, serves the two valleys, and has a lending library, a small but up-to-date reference room, and a children's room. The lending library at Pentre has an enquiries desk in charge of a senior member of the staff who attends to the needs of borrowers.

A growing feature of the library service is its work with children. Besides an average of 53,000 children's books given out each year in the libraries, there has been, since September, 1942, a school libraries service, now possessing 16,028 volumes. This is financed by the Education Authority and administered by the public libraries. The work is in the care of a children's librarian especially trained and chosen for the work.

A link with the authority's "service of youth" exists in the section of youth work at the Central Library, built up for the use of youth leaders and others interested in this work. Books on adult education, methods with adolescents, drama, crafts, etc., are available, by post if necessary, on special tickets. The central library also has a growing music library of standard and modern works available to borrowers on special music tickets. The library authority is a member of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Regional Library Bureau, and last year borrowed 137 rare or out of print volumes for student readers.

In addition the authority is a member of the Library Association, The British Records Association, The National Book League and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux. In this way close contact is kept with current movements in the library and book world in general.

DEPARTMENTS

Central Library: Pleasant View, Pentre (Tel.: Pentre 2204);
Branches: Bute Street, Treherbert (Tel.: Treherbert 232);
De Winton Street, Tonypandy.

Institute Branches: Blaencwm, Blaenrhondda, Cwmparc, Cymmer, Ffernhill, Fferndale, Maerdy, Penygraig, Pontygraig, Tylorstown, Wattstown, Ystrad.

HEALTH SERVICES

The maintenance of an efficient and comprehensive system of public health services is regarded by the Council as of paramount importance and the progressive development of these services in line with modern requirements receives constant attention.

The health services are administered from the office of the health department, Tydfil House, Llewellyn Street, Pentre,

Rhondda Urban District Council

FACTORY SITES

★ ROAD AND RAIL FACILITIES

★ POWER

(GAS AND ELECTRICITY)

★ GOOD WATER SUPPLY AND
DRAINAGE

Full Particulars from

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COUNCIL OFFICES,
PENTRE, RHONDDA

TELEPHONE - PENTRE 2248 and 2249

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

and are controlled by the Medical Officer of Health, who is also District School Medical Officer and devotes part of his time to the duties of Divisional Medical Officer for the Rhondda Health Division of the Glamorgan County Council.

The staff employed in the District Council's Health Department also includes—

- 1 Lay Administrative Officer who devotes half his time to the County Divisional Health Services.
- 1 Chief Sanitary Inspector.
- 10 Sanitary Inspectors.
- 2 Shops Inspectors.
- 1 Rodent Control Supervisor
- 6 Rodent Operatives.
- 10 Clerical Staff.

The District Council is also the Food and Drugs Authority for the urban area and samples of various foods (particularly milk and ice-cream) are frequently taken for submission to the public analyst.

All except one of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors are also qualified meat inspectors; one inspector (occasionally relieved or assisted by other inspectors) devotes the whole of his time to the inspection of meat in the Government Slaughterhouse at Ton Pentre, where most of the slaughtering of animals in the district is centralised.

There are over 29,300 dwelling-houses in the district, most of which are substantially built, fairly commodious and connected with the Council's sewerage system and the officers of the Department are regularly engaged in taking action with the object of ensuring that these houses are kept in a reasonable state of repair.

With a staff of seven persons devoting the whole of their time to rodent control work, steady progress is being made in the campaign to save damage to foodstuffs and other property by rats and mice.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

The hospital services in the district are administered by the Pontypridd and Rhondda Hospital Management Committee and the following hospitals and clinics are located in the district:—

Llwynypia Hospital	.....	206 beds
Treherbert Hospital	.....	30 beds
Pentwyn Hospital	.....	24 beds
Porth and District Hospital	.....	130 beds
Tyntyla Isolation Hospital	.....	71 beds
Penrhys Small Pox Hospital	.....	14 beds
Glyncornel Convalescent Home	.....	40 beds
Rheumatism Clinic, Carnegie Centre, Trealaw	
Chest Clinic, Porth House, Porth.	

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beds are allocated for the treatment of medical, surgical, gynaecological and other special diseases. Beds are also available for the treatment of Rhondda residents in other hospitals administered by the Committee and in hospitals further afield under arrangements sanctioned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

MUNICIPAL CLINICS

The district has six municipal clinics which are situated at Ynyswen, Ystrad, Trealaw, Penygraig, Ynyshir and Ferndale, respectively, and which for reasons of efficiency, convenience and economy are used jointly in the interests of maternity and child welfare and the school health service.

The Carnegie Welfare Centre at Trealaw was erected as a model welfare centre and clinic, partly as a result of a substantial gift by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and was opened by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester in October, 1933. This Centre is well designed and equipped for the various activities of the Council in the health interests of the mothers and children of the district and serves as a central clinic for certain services of a special character which are not available at the other clinics.

Regular sessions are held at all the clinics and a medical officer is in attendance at each session for the purpose of tendering advice to expectant and nursing mothers and mothers with children under five. Facilities are available at each clinic for the treatment of minor ailments, orthopaedic conditions, dental defects, and visual defects among school children and pre-school children, while dental treatment (including the provision of artificial dentures) is also extended to expectant and nursing mothers.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

When the National Health Service Act came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, many of the health services previously controlled by the District Council were transferred to the Glamorgan County Council and are administered through the Rhondda Divisional Health Committee. The staff employed for these services, including the school health service, comprises the Divisional Medical Officer, who also acts as Medical Officer of Health, together with the following, viz.:

- 6 Assistant Medical Officers.
- 4 Dental Surgeons.
- 4 Dental Attendants.
- 1 Lay Administrative Officer (half-time given to District Council Health Service).
- 1 Superintendent Health Visitor and School Nurse.
- 21 Health Visitors and School Nurses.
- 1 Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Home Nurses and Home Helps.
- 20 Whole-time and 4 Relief (Part-time) Midwives.
- 17 Whole-time and 5 Relief (Part-time) Home Nurses.
- 27 Full-time and 10 Part-time Home Helps.
- 11 Clerical Staff.

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DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Divisional Health Services include domiciliary midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, vaccination, immunisation, illness after-care, the loan of nursing equipment and medical comforts, and the provision of home help. No charge is made for any of these services except in the case of the Home Help Scheme, which involves a graduated scale of fees chargeable according to the family income but it is found that in most cases the income is below the minimum of the prescribed scale and the service in such cases is provided free of cost.

All except one of the whole-time midwives are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the Advisory Memorandum of the Central Midwives Board.

In the case of expectant mothers with unfavourable home conditions or where complications of pregnancy are expected, arrangements are made for admission to the Llywynypia Hospital or to the Church Village General Hospital.

The arrangements for the care of mothers and young children also include provision for supplementary supplies of milk, free of cost or at reduced rates, for expectant mothers, nursing mothers and children under five years of age in cases where the issues made by the Ministry of Food are regarded as insufficient on medical grounds and it is worthy of note that the Rhondda Council was the first maternity and child welfare authority in England and Wales to administer a scheme on behalf of the Milk Marketing Board for the supply of milk at 2d. per pint for consumption by mothers and children.

The home visitation of expectant mothers and children under five years of age is carried out by the authority's health visitors and school nurses who, in virtue of their dual capacity, also keep in touch with the children throughout their school lives.

The Public Ambulance Service for the district is administered by the Glamorgan County Council, there being an Ambulance Station at the Llywynypia Hospital and Sub-Stations at Treherbert, Porth and Ferndale, respectively.

TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM

The Rhondda Council have been particularly concerned about the prevalence and crippling effects of rheumatic diseases and the extent to which such diseases affected the industrial capacity and general welfare of large numbers of people. After giving much consideration to the matter it was decided to establish a special clinic at the Carnegie Welfare Centre, Trealaw, which is provided with modern equipment and appliances for the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic and allied diseases. This is believed to be the first municipal clinic of its kind in England and Wales.

55

SANITARY SERVICES

The collection of household refuse and street scavenging is regularly undertaken by direct labour under the control of the Council's Engineer.

The whole district is sewerred and only about 100 houses out of approximately 29,300 remain unconnected with the sewerage system.

The efficiency of the public sanitary services and of the safeguarding of the water supply is reflected in the very low incidence of the enteric group of diseases amongst the inhabitants of the district.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

The Rhondda Transport Company, which has its depot at Porth, operates efficient bus services throughout the area. Transport difficulties were among the early hindrances of development in the Rhondda, as the configuration of the country made ready accessibility exceedingly difficult. Although the tramways system, which was inaugurated in 1908, served the growing needs of industry, it was bound to be replaced eventually by a more up-to-date method of transport. To keep pace with the times, the tramways were abandoned in February, 1934, and a fleet of modern omnibuses was put into service by which all the townships in the Rhondda area are now directly connected.

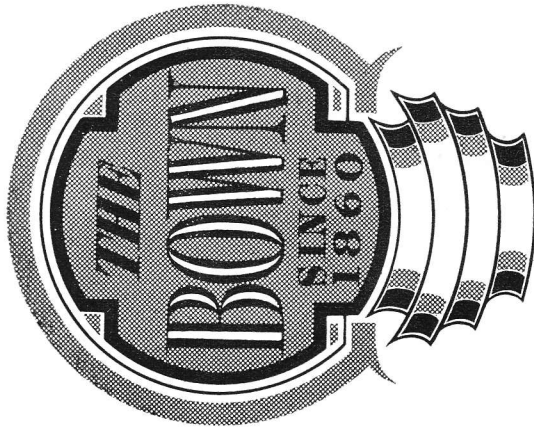
The Rhondda Transport Company has not only provided services for the transport of miners to and from their work but has met all the requirements for transport in connection with the development of new factory sites in the area. Comprehensive services are also in operation over the whole district to meet the needs of the population, both for internal transit in the Rhondda and to outlying districts.

PUBLIC SERVICES

WATER SUPPLY

The waterworks were taken over by the Urban District Council under a special Act of Parliament in 1898, so that the water supply for the Rhondda Fawr is now under the control of the local Council. The catchment areas, of which there are several, are on the high mountain pasture and are so situated that pollution is practically absent. These ensure a sufficient supply of water for domestic purposes for the area as well as for industrial purposes. The average annual rainfall for the last fifty-seven years is 90.43 inches. The reservoirs are at the extreme ends of the valleys with an impounding reservoir at Llyn Fawr, near Rhigos, which has a capacity of two hundred million gallons. The latter is a natural lake formed in the distant glacier period.

The water is conveyed from the Llyn Fawr Reservoir by means of a 22-inch main which has been laid in a tunnel driven through the mountain for a distance of 1 1/4 miles, and then lower



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down the valley is connected to the service reservoir at Tynywaun, at the north end of the Rhondda Fawr. The average daily consumption of water is nearly two and a half million gallons. It is mechanically filtered by an up-to-date plant and sterilized. Prior to the water being discharged into the distributing mains the water, therefore, possesses a high degree of chemical and organic purity and is very palatable. It is soft in character and quite suitable for manufacturing processes as well as for domestic use. Neighbouring local authorities are supplied with water in bulk.

The water supply for the Rhondda Fach Valley is under the control of the Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Water Board, which has its reservoirs at the extreme end of Maerdy, where there is also an up-to-date filtration plant.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS SUPPLIES

Before nationalisation the electricity undertaking in the Rhondda was administered by the Council, and was inaugurated in 1914. The undertaking is now administered by the South Wales Electricity Board whose local offices are at Cymmer Road, Porth (Tel: Porth 227/228) where particulars of domestic and industrial tariffs can be obtained.

As in the case of the electricity undertaking the Gasworks Undertaking was formerly owned by the Council, and was acquired in 1898 from the Ystrad Gas and Water Company, Ltd. (who started business in 1868) under the provision of a special Act of Parliament passed in 1896. The Urban District Council actually commenced operations on the 1st April, 1898. The Undertaking is now administered by the Rhondda Undertaking of the Wales Gas Board, whose local offices are at 202, Ystrad Road, Pentre (Tel: Pentre 3227). The office is at the service of all consumers at any time to give advice on gas appliances and the use of gas for all domestic and industrial purposes.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council have an up-to-date refuse destructor which was erected in 1910 and where all refuse that can be burnt is disposed of daily. The waste heat obtained from the incineration of the refuse is used to generate electricity and more than 12 million units of electricity are generated annually in this way. Two turbo-alternating sets with a capacity of 3,750 kw. have been installed to produce this energy which is sold in bulk to the South Wales Electricity Board.

The clinker left over after the refuse has been burnt is crushed, screened and graded, and is then heated and treated with tar and bitumen for road making. The fine dust obtained as a result of the process is converted into mortar for building purposes.

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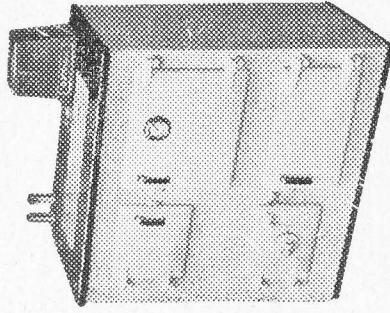
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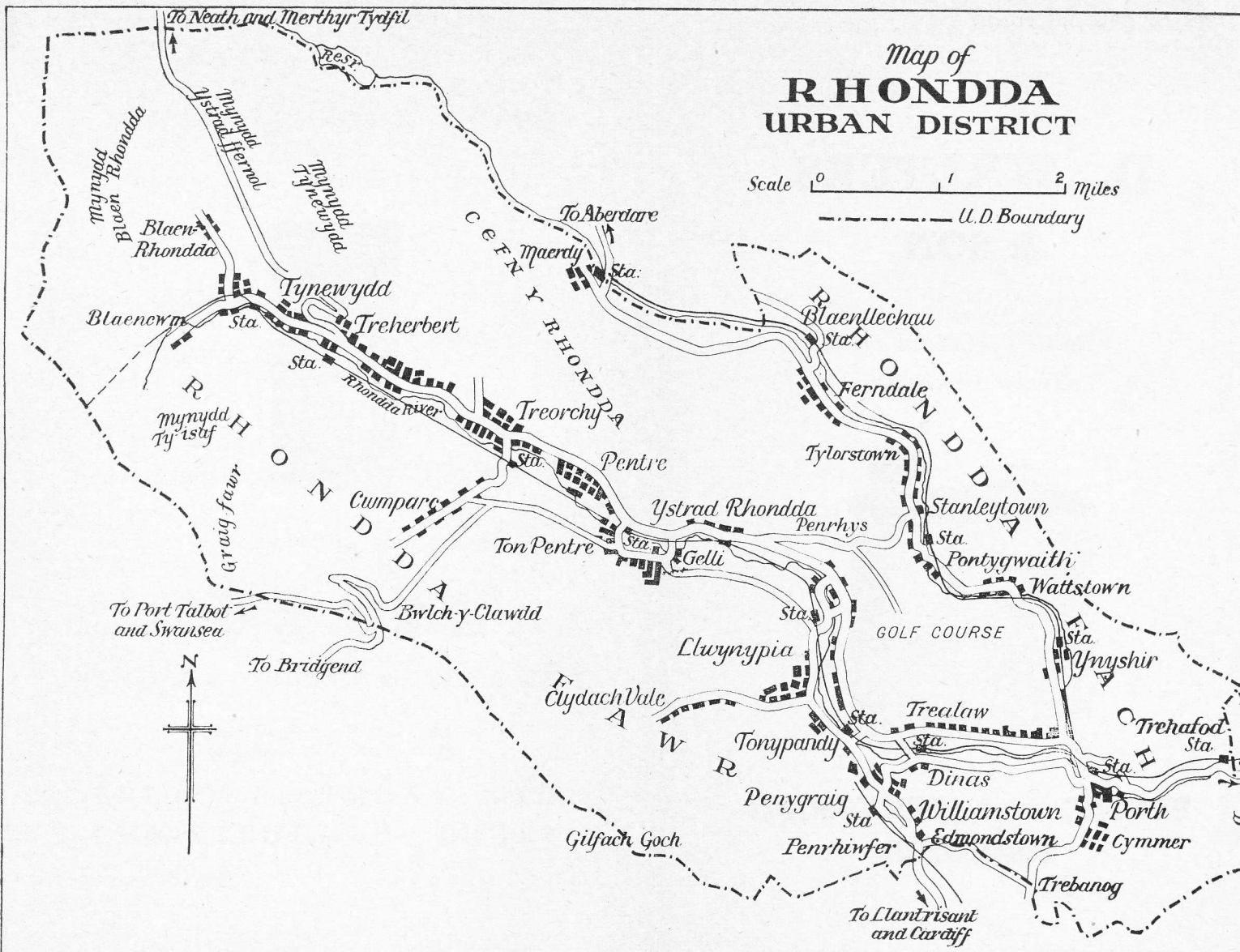
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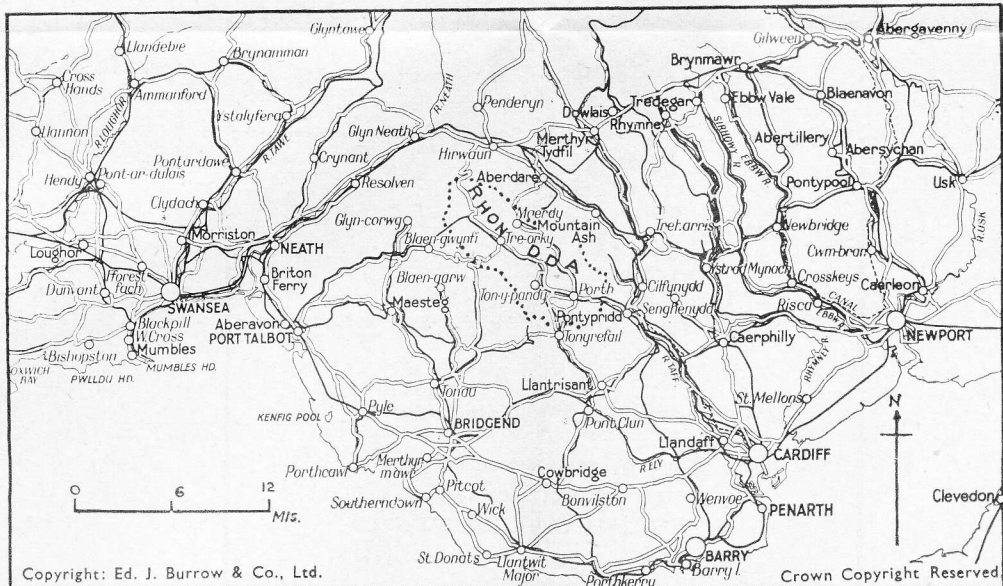




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MAP OF SOUTH WALES, SHOWING THE RHONDDA VALLEY

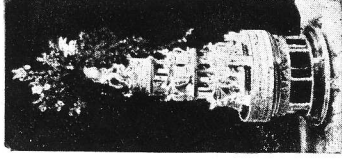
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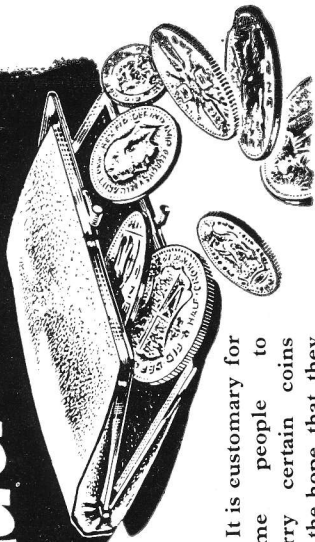
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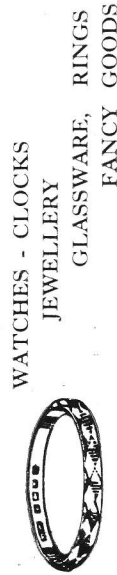
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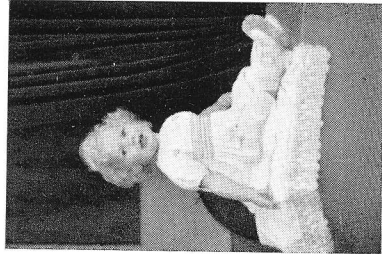
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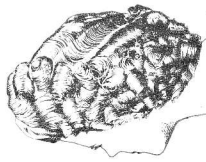


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